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ABSTRACT

This slide script to accompany the slide series, Ornamental Landscape Grasses, contains photographs of the 167 slides and accompanying narrative text intended for use in the study and identification of commercially important ornamental grasses and grasslike plants. Narrative text is provided for slides of 62 different perennial and annual species and cultivars that have been grouped into three broad categories on the basis of their height (less than 2 feet tall, 2-6 feet tall, and more than 6 feet tall). Most of the ornamental grasses depicted are illustrated on two slides, and the following information is contained in the narration provided for the first slide of each grass: scientific name (genus, species, and cultivar), phonetic spelling of the scientific name, slide number, additional identifying information, plant hardiness zone, and season of active growth (warm or cool). Also included are indexes listing the grasses by their scientific and common names. (MN)

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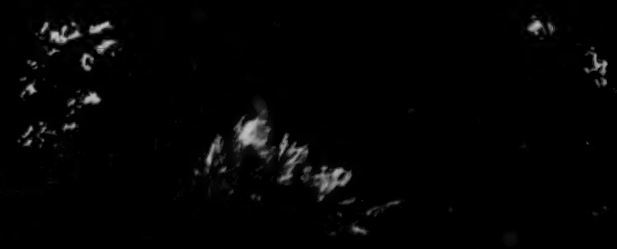
ED 377 357

Ornamental Landscape Grasses

Steven M. Still and Denise W. Adams



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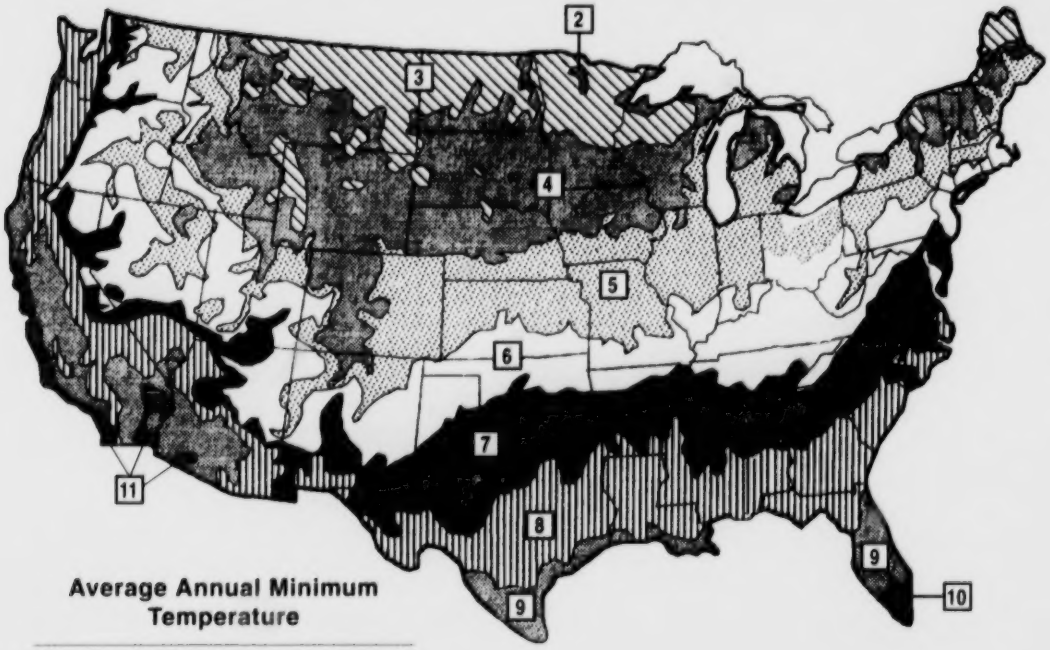
U.S. Plant Hardiness Zones



Average Annual Minimum Temperature

Zone 1	Below -50°F	
Zone 2	-50° to -40°	
Zone 3	-40° to -30°	
Zone 4	-30° to -20°	
Zone 5	-20° to -10°	
Zone 6	-10° to 0°	
Zone 7	0° to 10°	
Zone 8	10° to 20°	
Zone 9	20° to 30°	
Zone 10	30° to 40°	
Zone 11	Above 40°	

Adapted from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) graphic

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Preface

This slide series, ***Ornamental Landscape Grasses***, is intended for use in the study and identification of commercially important ornamental grasses and grass-like plants (for example, sedges and rushes). Both annuals and perennials are included.

Those involved in selling ornamental grasses should be able to identify the plants, help customers select grasses for specific situations, and provide cultural tips as well. Those who grow or maintain ornamental grasses in the nursery, the home or commercial landscape, or public gardens must also be able to identify each plant and its cultural requirements.

Ornamental Landscape Grasses contains slides of 62 different species and cultivars. In most cases, two slides are used to illustrate each grass. An occasional cultivar, however, is presented with only one slide, where that is enough to show its distinguishing characteristics. The plants are separated into three large categories according to height. With the Introduction they can be located on the following pages:

Introduction 1
Small Plants (less than 2 feet tall) .. 20
Medium-sized Plants (2-6 feet tall) . 39
Tall Plants (over 6 feet tall)..... 67

Within each category the plants are listed alphabetically by scientific name. Annual grasses are noted and perennial grasses are designated as **cool season** or **warm season** plants. These terms refer to the time when the grasses are in a state of active growth. Warm season grasses grow vigorously in spring and summer, often have attractive fall color, and are typically dormant in winter. Cool season plants begin growing in late winter or early spring, bloom in early summer, and then become dormant or slow-growing during the heat of summer and into the fall.

The narration for the first slide of each ornamental grass is in the following pattern:

Scientific name (genus, species and cultivar) COMMON NAME
Phonetic spelling of scientific name in parentheses
Number of slide beside each illustration
Additional information
Plant hardiness zone Warm or cool season

Plant lists or indexes, by both scientific name and common name, are located on the last five pages of this script for easy reference.

Ornamental Landscape Grasses is a cooperative venture between Steven M. Still and Denise W. Adams, both of The Ohio State University. Dr. Still, Professor of Horticulture, was project coordinator and photographer for this slide series. Denise Adams, a Horticulture graduate assistant, wrote this script.

William Waidelich, Director of the Ohio Agricultural Education Curriculum Materials Service, was project director for this series. Nicki King did the editing and layout. Jackie Stuts worked with the photographic presentation.

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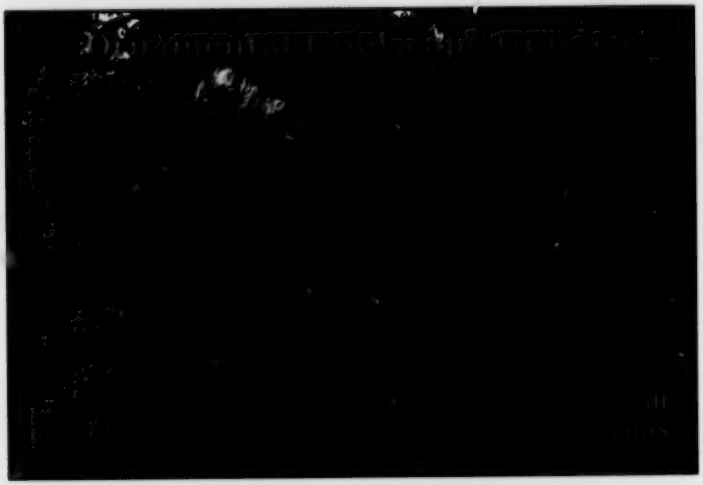
Ornamental Landscape Grasses

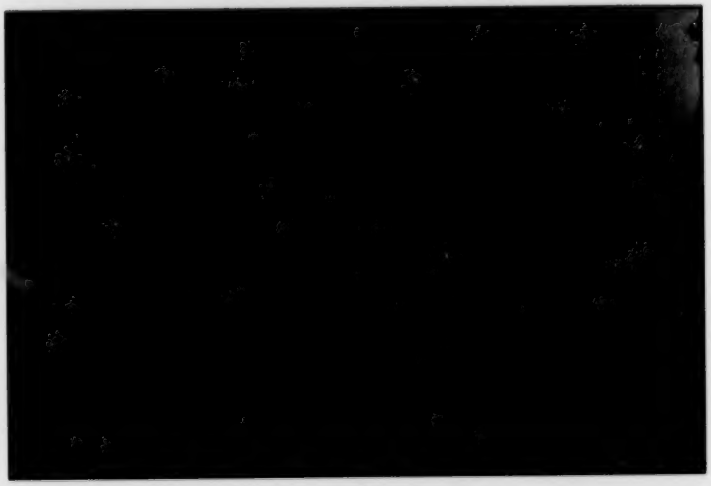
Steven H. [illegible] and Thomas W. Adams

1 INTRODUCTION



Ornamental grasses offer a diversity of color, form, and texture to the landscape.

2



Technically, the group contains only members of Poaceae (Gramineae), the grass family.

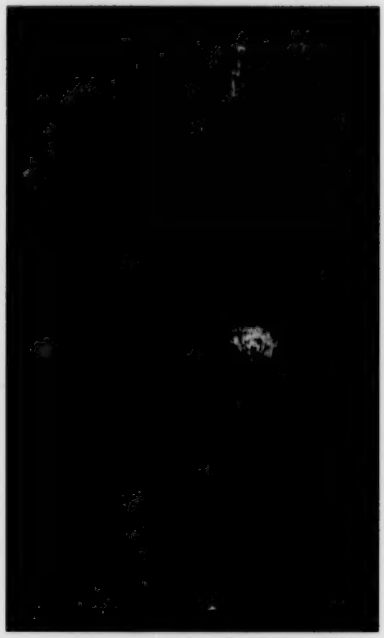
(*Miscanthus sinensis* cultivars)

3

Horticulturists, however, also deal with some of the grasslike plants, including sedges and rushes. So we will consider many examples from the broader group in this series.

(*Carex elata* 'Bowles Golden')

4

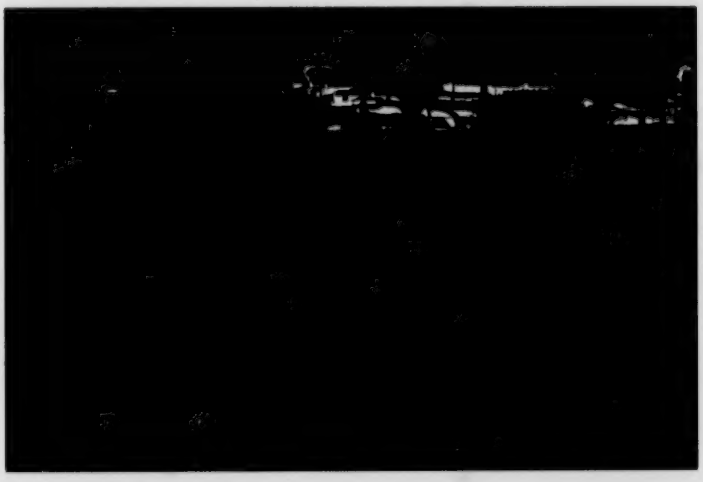


Ornamental grasses are not new. They were popular in Victorian times to complete bedding-out schemes and to provide materials for fresh and dried floral arrangements. This catalog print shows they were used over 100 years ago in the U.S.

5

Today, grasses may enhance the formality of a public garden. . . (*Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Stricta')

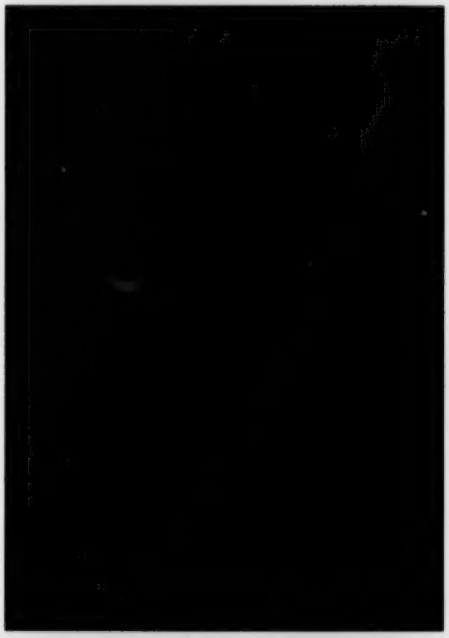
6



. . . soften the effect of a perennial border. . . .

(*Pennisetum, Calamagrostis)*

7

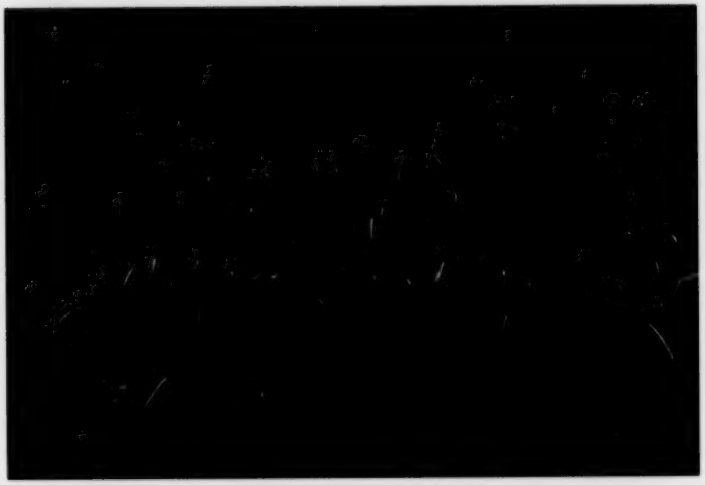


. . . or enrich a collection of native American plants.
(*Sorghastrum nutans*)

8

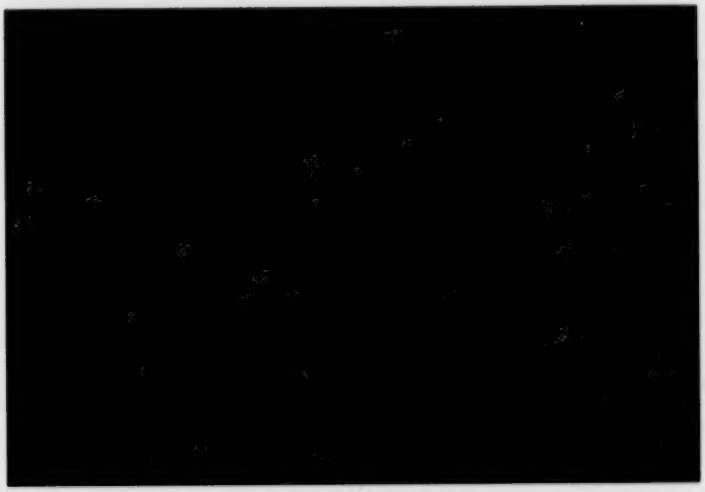
Grasses can be divided into two groups according to growth habit: the running grasses and the clump-formers.

9



Running grasses spread by means of rhizomes (underground stems) or stolons (aboveground horizontal stems). (*Elymus arenarius*)

10



While running grasses are often considered invasive in a small garden, they can be used as ground covers or in erosion-control projects.
(*Phalaris arundinacea* 'Picta')

11

Clump-formers are less competitive for limited space. They combine well with annuals and perennials.
(Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus')

12

Grasses may also be classified by their season of growth.
(*Pennisetum* and *Miscanthus sinensis* cultivars)

13

Cool-season grasses grow when the weather is cool. Though they are usually evergreen, they may become dormant in the hotter months.

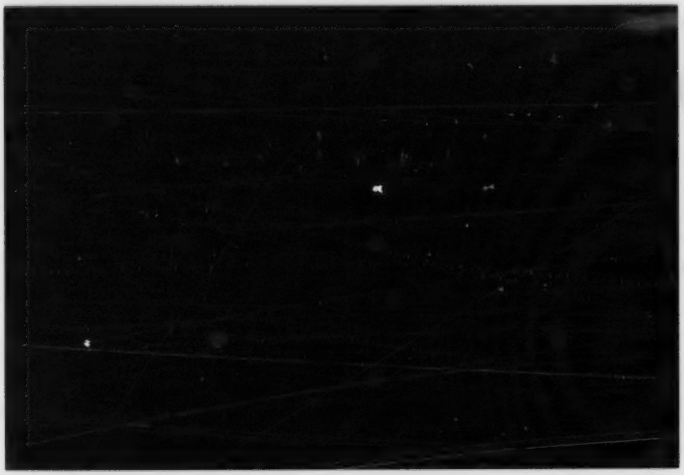
(*Stipa gigantea*)

14

Warm-season grasses (foreground) grow during the summer months. They are usually dormant when the temperature is low.

(*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola')

15

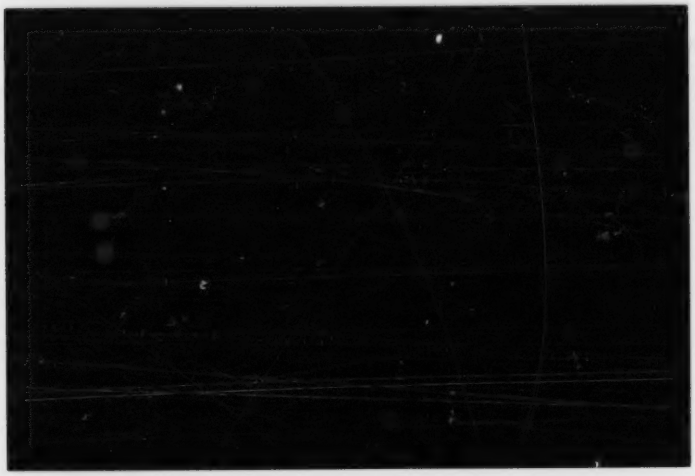


Ornamental grasses come in many different sizes and shapes.
(left to right: *Panicum, Miscanthus, Erianthus* species)

16

An upright grass reinforces vertical perspective in the landscape.
(*Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Stricta')

17



Arching plumes of grasses like these soften and add depth.
(Miscanthus sinensis 'Kaskade')

18

There are grasses that form low, mounding hummocks . . .
(Festuca cinerea)

19

. . . and stately giants that provide screens and accent.
(*Erianthus ravennae*)

20

Textures may be fine and airy . . .
(*Molinia caerulea* subsp. *arundinacea* 'Windspiel')

21

. . . or bold and dramatic.
(*Cortaderia selloana* 'Sunningdale Silver')

22

Even colors of grasses vary, presenting an exciting palette of choices.
(*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Variegatus')

23

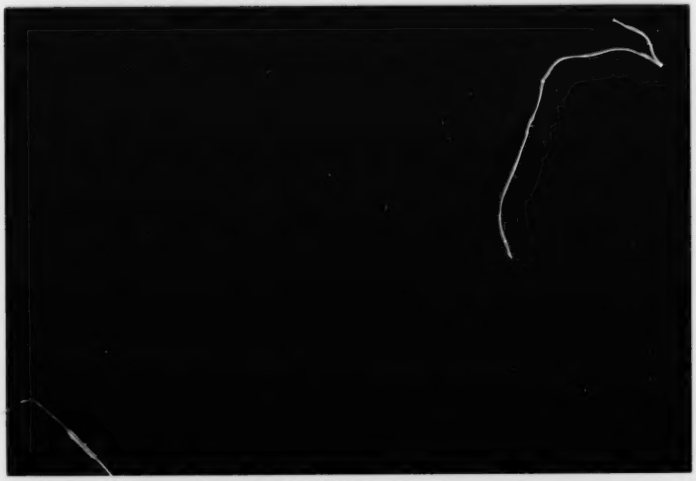
Green is not a simple, uniform color, but includes many hues and tints with yellow and blue highlights. *(Festuca scoparia)*

24

There is also striking variegated foliage which includes stripes of gold and cream.

(*Spartina pectinata* 'Aureo-Marginata')

25



Red, purple, and even black-foliaged grasses can be dramatic accents in the garden when combined with contrasting plants.
(*Imperata cylindrica* 'Red Baron')

26

Blue shades of grasses are particularly effective in the perennial border.
(*Helictotrichon sempervirens*)

27

Even brown can be a color of choice among ornamental grasses.
(Carex buchananii)

28

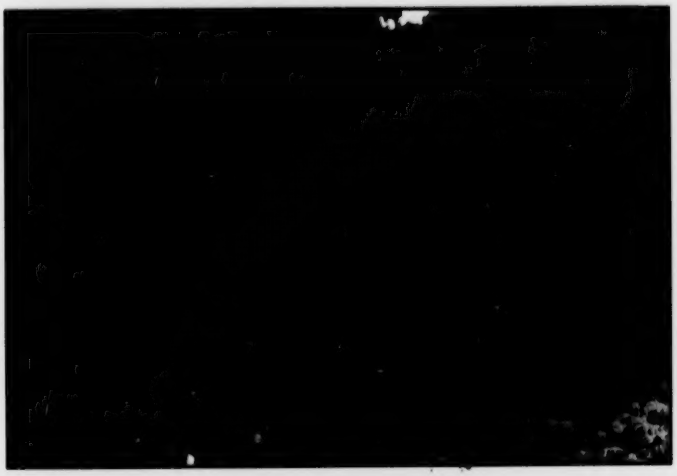
Ornamental grasses are very 'usable' because they are relatively pest-free and readily adapt to a variety of soils and exposures.

29

There are few maintenance requirements for grasses. Often they require only cutting back at the appropriate time.

(*Miscanthus* cultivars)

30



Most grasses prefer a sunny site.

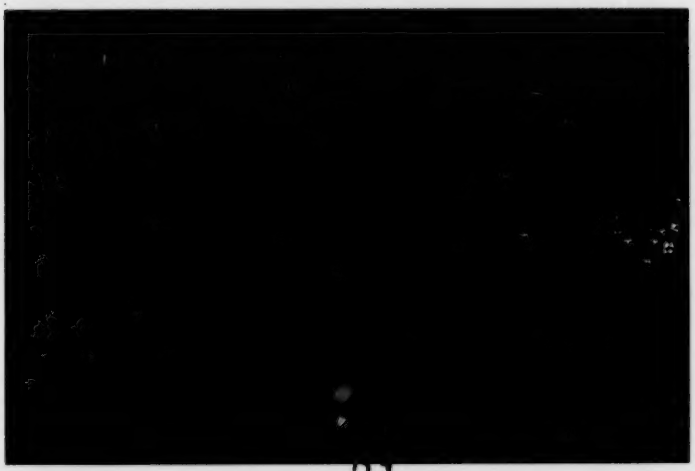
(*Panicum virgatum*)

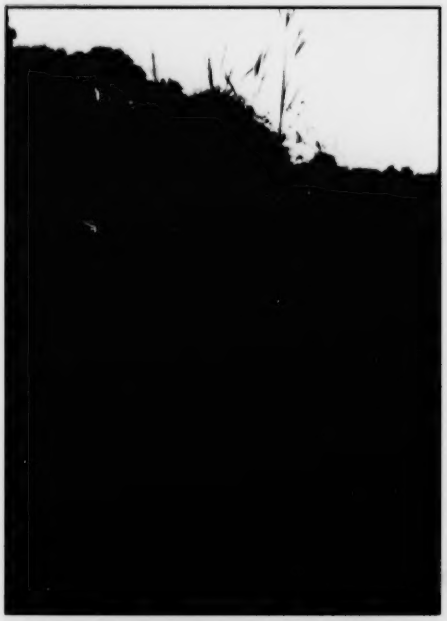
31

Some do well in the shade.
(*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola')

32

While many grasses flourish in wet locations, . . .
(*Carex elata* 'Aurea')





33

. . . prairie grasses are extremely drought-tolerant.
(*Andropogon gerardii*)

34

For all-season interest, many ornamental grasses have interesting, eye-catching summer and fall coloration.
(*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Zebrinus')

35

Grasses with subtle neutral shades provide a pleasing contrast to a stark, wintry landscape.

36

Even the element of sound - a gentle rustling - can be introduced into a garden with the late season foliage and seed heads of grasses. *(Miscanthus* and *Erianthus* species)

37

Landscapers and horticulturists around the country are increasingly viewing ornamental grasses as representative of the new American garden design.

38

With their diversity and versatility, ornamental grasses heighten the interest of almost any landscape setting.
(foreground: *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Stricta')

Agrostis nebulosa 20

(ah-grah´stis neb´yoo-loh-sah)

Cloud grass is a fine-textured grass used at the front of the border. Numerous minutely panicled branches produce a delicate 'nebulous' effect and give the plant its specific name. Massing these plants will heighten their ornamental impact.

39

ANNUAL

40

Cloud grass is 18 inches tall and blooms for six to eight weeks in early summer.

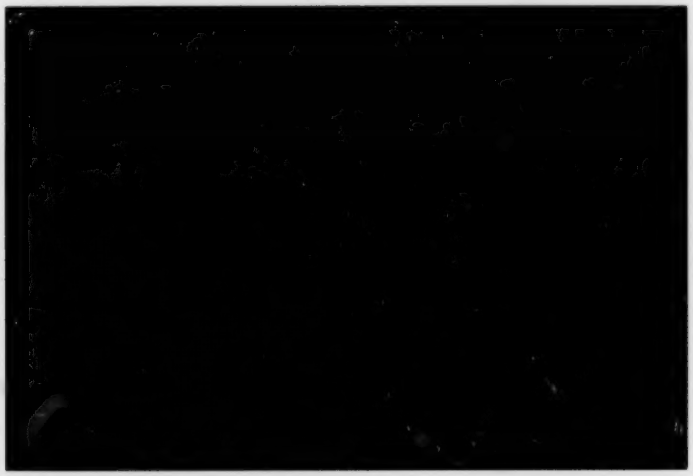
(al-oh-pek´u-rus pray-ten´sis aw´ree-us)

41

Yellow foxtail grass is a perennial with yellow and green finely-textured leaves. It averages 18 inches in height and has an open, upright habit.

ZONES 6-9 COOL SEASON

42



Yellow foxtail grass should be planted in fertile, moist soil. It can be used effectively in the perennial border or beside a pool or pond.

Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum 'Variegatum' 22

(ah-ren-ah´ther-um el-ay´tee-us bul-boh´sum var-ee-uh-gay´tum)

43

Bulbous oat grass provides a pleasing contrast in the border with its blue-green and white variegated foliage. Its name comes from the unusual bulbous nodes (resembling a rattlesnake tail) that form at the base of the plant.

ZONES 4-9 COOL SEASON

44

Growing 12 to 18 inches tall, bulbous oat grass forms a low mound. It should be used in the garden in combination with gray or silver foliaged plants. This plant is tolerant of dry soils.

(boo-tuh-loo´ah kur-tih-pen´dyoo-lah)

45

Side-oats grama is a showy specimen grass or ground cover with a 2-foot, upright, arching habit. It can tolerate drought and alkaline soils, but does best in fertile soil in full sun.

ZONES 4-9 WARM SEASON

Bouteloua gracilis

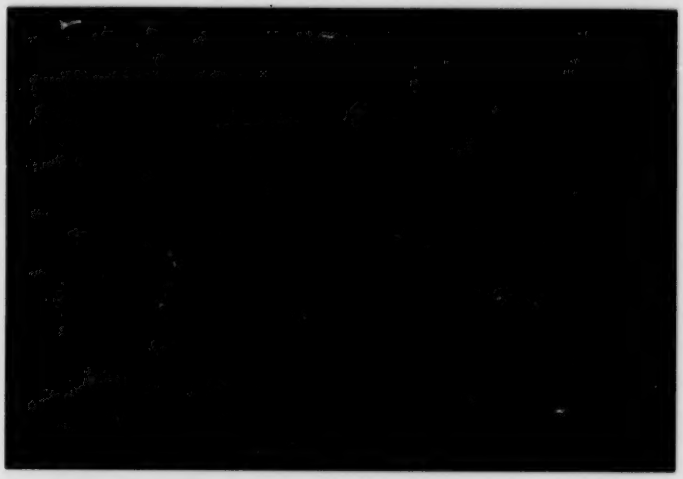
(boo-tuh-loo´ah gras´il-is)

46

Mosquito grass is a good plant to naturalize. Its 18-inch-tall clumps may also be used to enhance a rock garden or perennial border.

ZONES 4-9 WARM SEASON

47



The flowers of mosquito grass, which are borne perpendicular to the stem, resemble miniature combs.

48

The sedges are grass-like plants which have extensive ornamental value in the landscape. This group requires moist soil and full sun or partial shade.

Carex buchananii 26

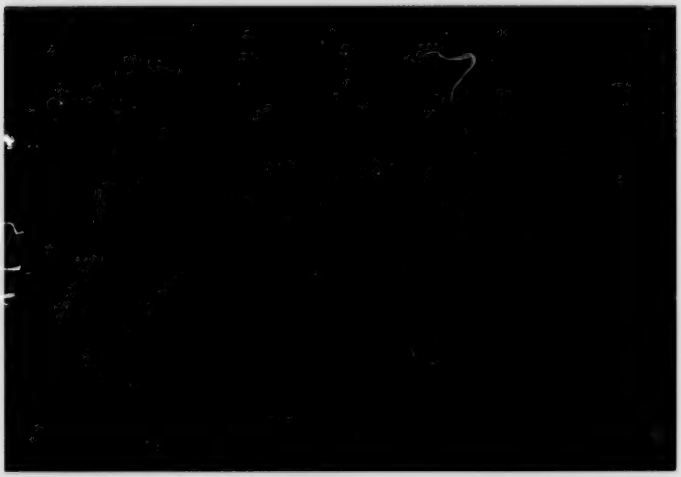
(kair´ex byoo-kan-an´ee-eye)

49

Leather-leaf sedge has fine-textured, coppery brown foliage and grows between 1 and 2 feet tall. It is sometimes slow to become established.

ZONE 6

50

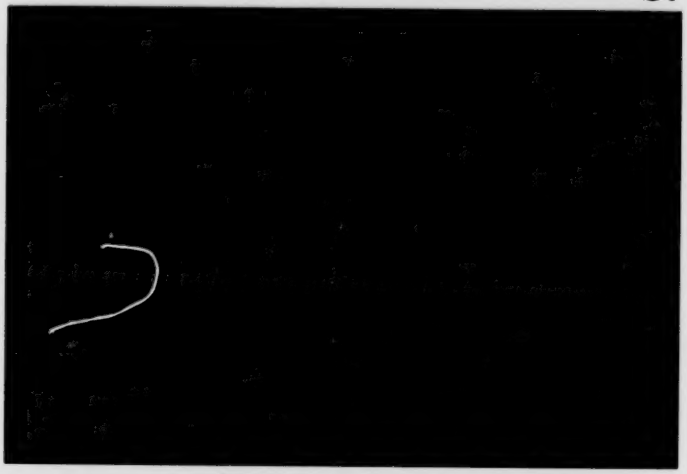


Leather-leaf sedge can be used in a variety of ways: as a specimen, in a water garden, or as an edging in a perennial garden, as shown here.

Carex grayi

(kair´ex gray´eye)

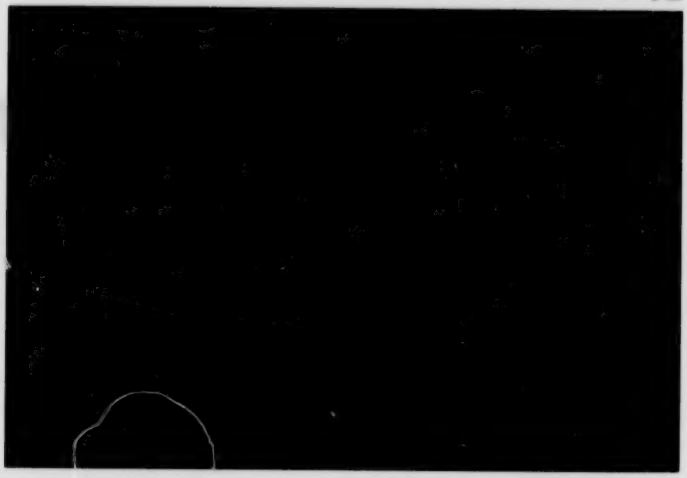
51



Gray's sedge, growing 2 feet tall, can be used effectively either as a specimen or massed near water.

ZONES 5-9

52



Another name for this plant is morning star sedge because of its interesting seed heads. Their shape resembles stars or spiked clubs.

(kair´ex mor-roh´ee-eye)

53

Variegated Japanese sedge (***Carex morrowii*** 'Aurea-Variegata') forms a 12- to 18-inch low mound. It is an evergreen sedge and (where hardy) is attractive year round. The delicate arching foliage is characterized by a yellow stripe on each leaf.

ZONES 7-9

54

'Evergold' is an excellent cultivar with narrow, arching blades.

55

Silver variegated Japanese sedge (***Carex morrowii*** 'Variegata') has stiff leaves edged in white.

Carex muskingumensis

(kair´ex mus-king´you-men´sis)

56

The foliage of palm sedge resembles palm fronds, giving this 2- to 3-foot hardy plant a tropical look.

ZONES 4-9

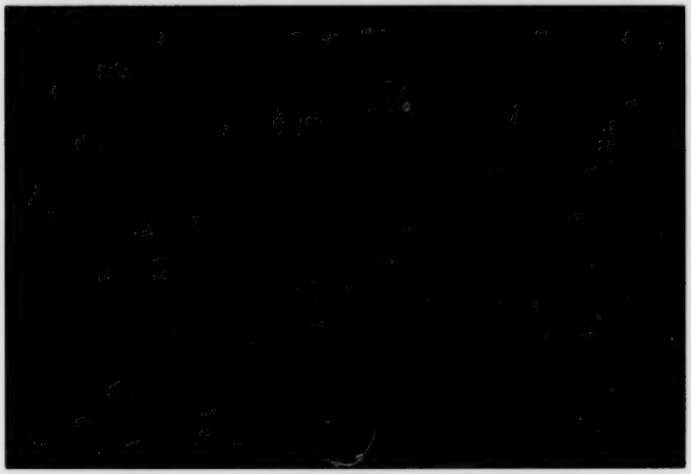
57

Palm sedge makes a good ground cover for moist, partially shaded sites. It is very ornamental as a container plant or as an accent for a water garden.

Carex nigra 30

(kair´ex neye´grah)

58

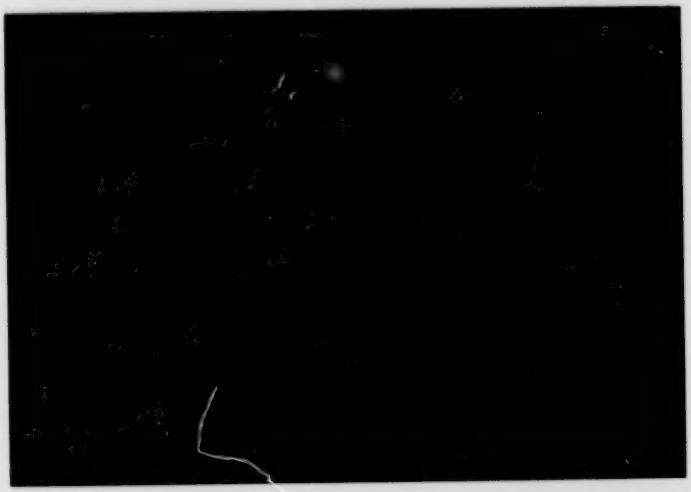


Black sedge grows 9 inches tall and is characterized by soft blue-gray foliage that is usually evergreen. The blackish flowers, which appear in spring, give this sedge its common name.

ZONES 4-8

(fes-too´kah sin-er-ee´ah) (*also* Festuca ovina 'Glauca')

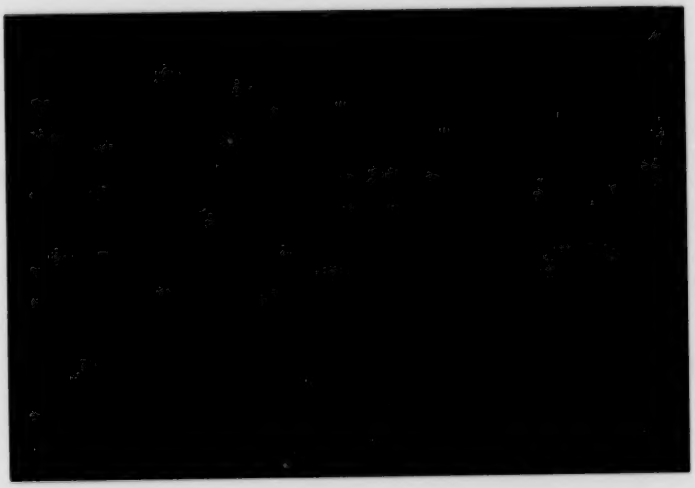
59



Dwarf blue fescue forms densely tufted mounds that make an attractive ground cover when massed. The plants are also used individually as specimen plants.

ZONES 4-9 COOL SEASON

60



Dwarf fescue is 8 to 10 inches tall and is best cultivated in full sun to light shade in a well-drained, dry soil. Though grown primarily for its foliage effect, dwarf blue fescue may have ornamental flowers, as seen here.

61

The powdery blue foliage of the 8- to 12-inch cultivar 'Elijah Blue' makes a very effective complement to red- or purple-leaved plants.

62

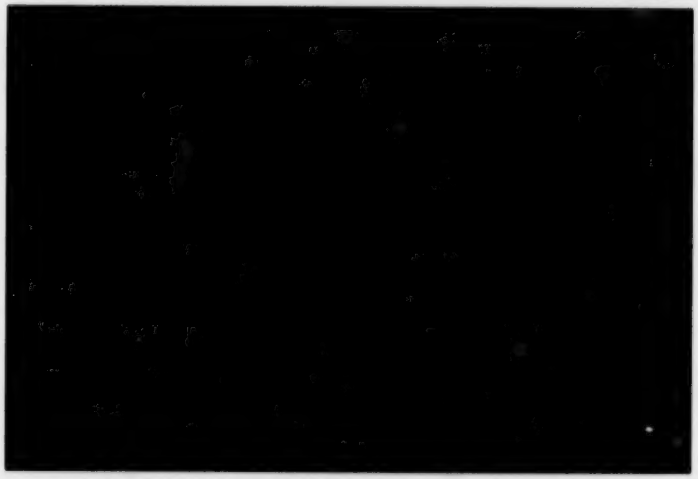
'Sea Urchin' has green-blue blades and grows 6 to 12 inches tall.

63

'Azure Blue' has blue-gray foliage and grows 12 to 16 inches tall.

(fes-too´kah skoh-pah-ree´ah)

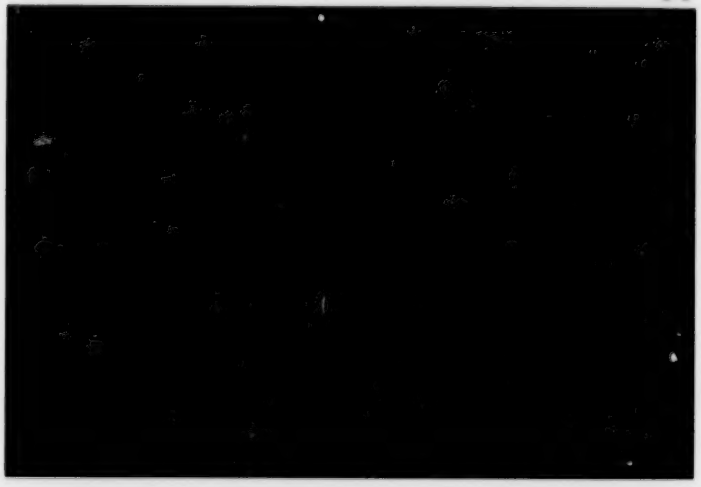
64



Bearskin fescue is a diminutive, 4- to 6-inch fescue with bright evergreen foliage. A better name for it might be porcupine fescue because of its prickly blades. This plant makes a good specimen for troughs or rock gardens.

ZONES 5-9 COOL SEASON

65



Golden flower spikes emerge from bearskin fescue in early summer, providing long seasonal interest.

Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'

(hah-koh-neh-kloh´ah mak´rah aw-ree-oh´lah)

66

The brilliant yellow-striped foliage of golden-variegated hakonechloa provides a bright 2-foot-tall accent in the landscape.

ZONES 7-9 WARM SEASON

67

Though this grass is rhizomatous, it is typically non-invasive. It thrives in partial shade, where it can be used effectively as a specimen or massed in rock gardens or water gardens.

Holcus mollis 'Albo-Variegatus'

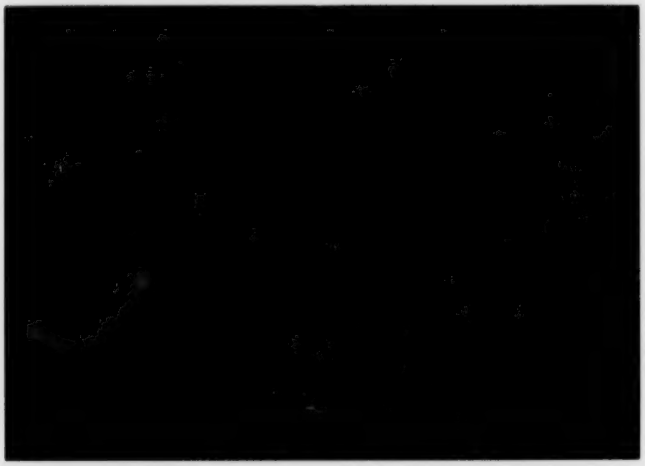
(hol´kus mol´lis var-ee-uh-gay´tus)

68

Variegated velvetgrass is a spreading, shade-tolerant grass that prefers a well-drained, fertile, sandy soil. The 1- to 2-foot-long white-and-green blades give a soft look to the landscape.

ZONES 5-9 COOL SEASON

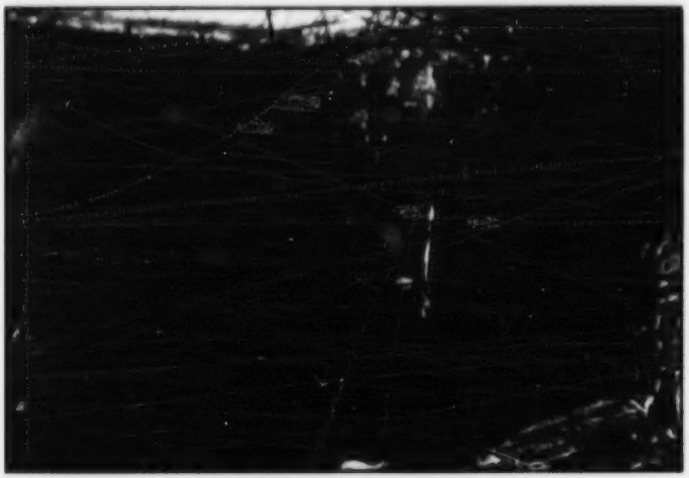
69



Variegated velvetgrass can be massed for a ground cover, used as a specimen, or naturalized in a meadow or lawn.

(im-per-ah´tah sil-in´dree-kah)

70



Japanese blood grass, with foliage 18 inches long, should be planted in moist soil in sun or partial shade. The plants should be massed for the best effect.

ZONES 6-7 WARM SEASON

71

The glossy red foliage of Japanese blood grass is distinctive in the grass world. The foliage emerges green and becomes red as the season progresses.

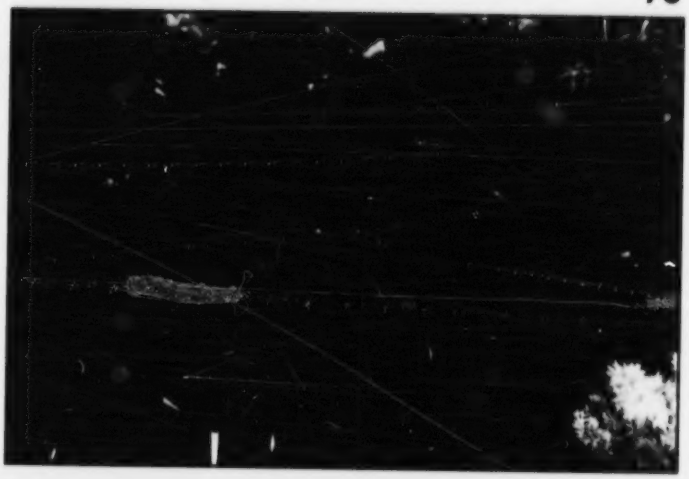
(oh-fee-oh-poh´gon plan-ee-scay´poos)

72

Black mondo grass grows 12 to 24 inches tall. It grows best in moist soil in full or partial sun.

ZONES 7-10

73



Black mondo grass is actually in the lily family, not in the grass family. However, its grass-like foliage, bluish black at maturity, produces a dramatic effect in the garden.

Sesleria autumnalis

(sez-lair´ee-ah aw-tum-nal´is)

74

Autumn moor grass grows about 12 inches tall. It is tolerant of sunny, dry sites and light shade. The plants should be massed for the best landscape effect.

ZONES 5-9 COOL SEASON

75

Autumn moor grass has chartreuse foliage and attractive flower spikes, which bloom in the fall.

Andropogon gerardii 39

(an-droh-poh´gon jer-ar´dee-eye)

76

Big bluestem was once a prolific grass of the tall grass prairie. Growing in clumps, this grass averages 4 to 6 feet tall, but may grow as tall as 10 feet. As prairies disappear, big bluestem can be naturalized for highway plantings or erosion control.

ZONES 4-10 WARM SEASON

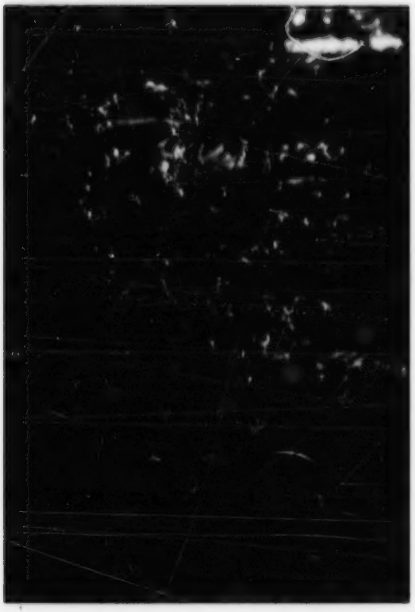
77

Big bluestem can also be used as a single specimen in the perennial border. Its bronze fall color is an ornamental feature.

Andropogon scoparius 40

(an-droh-poh´gon skoh-pair´ee-us)

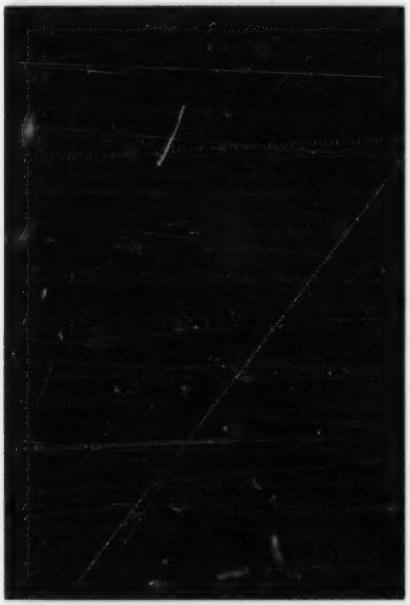
78



Little bluestem, growing 2 to 5 feet tall, is another native of the midwestern prairie. The plant is best displayed in a meadow-style garden. It is tolerant of dry, rocky, acidic sites, and flourishes in a sunny location.

ZONES 4-10 WARM SEASON

79



Little bluestem blooms from late July into the winter. It provides a fine-textured, late season interest in the landscape.

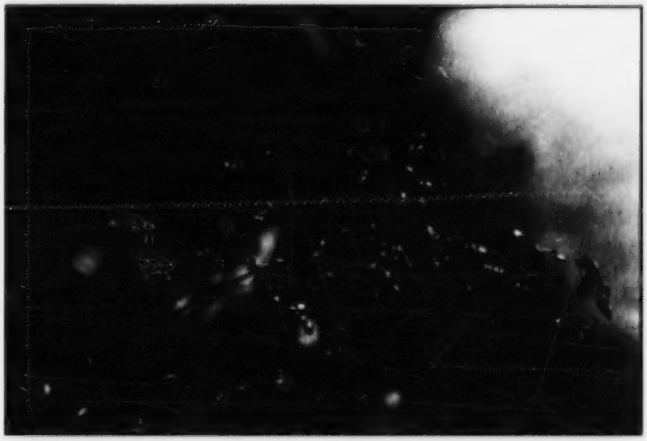
(breye´zah mee-dee´ah)

80

Perennial quaking grass has been cultivated for centuries. Growing 12 to 18 inches tall, this plant can be used as a specimen plant or as a ground cover in full sun. Perennial quaking grass is particularly effective in combination with spring-blooming perennials.

ZONES 4-10 COOL SEASON

81



The flowers of perennial quaking grass rise 12 inches above the foliage. The golden heart-shaped florets tend to shake and shiver in the wind, giving this grass its common name.

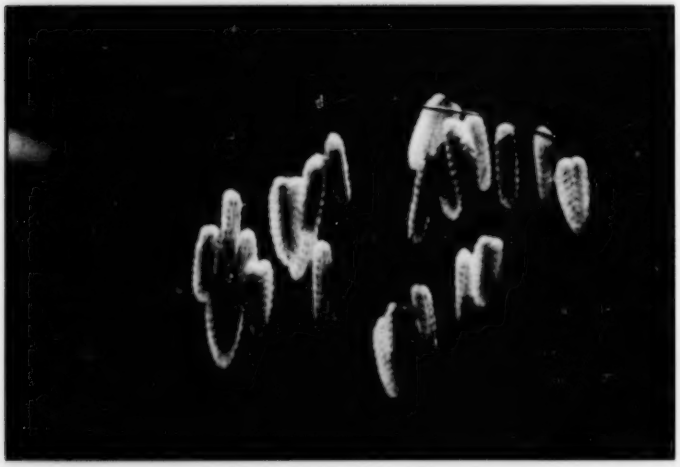
(breye´zah max´ee-mah)

82

Big quaking grass is an annual relative of perennial quaking grass. In spite of its common name, it also grows only 12 to 24 inches tall. The foliage is coarse, but the flowers add a delicate texture to the garden.

ANNUAL

83



Panicles of both species of quaking grass can be cut for fresh or dried flower arrangements.

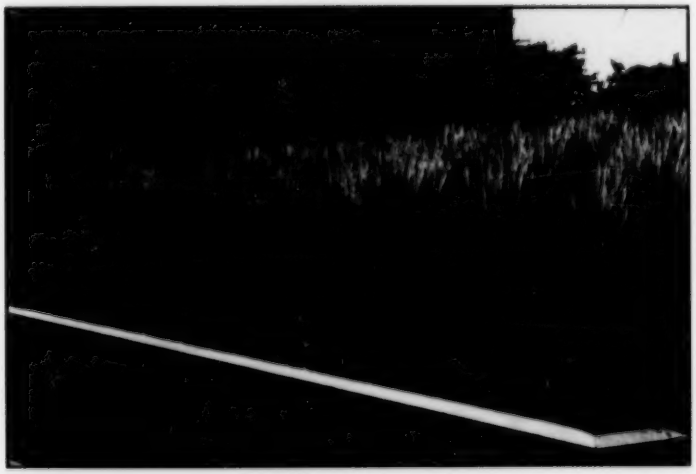
(kal-ah-mah-gros´tis ah-kyoo´tih-flor-ah)

84

Feather reed grass grows 2 to 4 feet tall, forming an upright clump. Its golden flowers dazzle in the early summer and turn to neutral shades in the fall.

ZONES 5-9 COOL SEASON

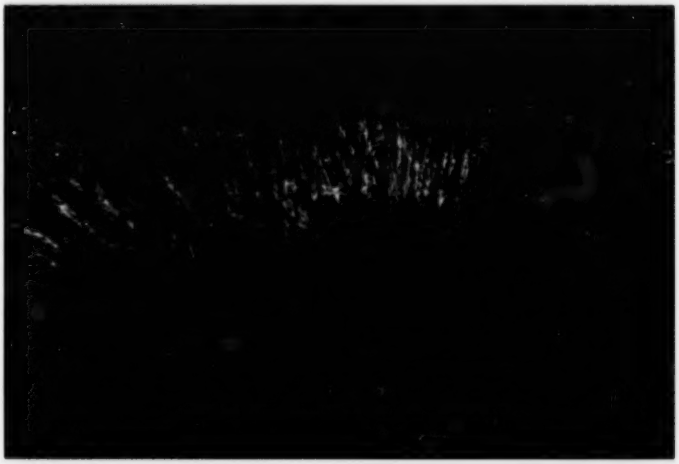
85



Feather reed grass provides a distinct vertical accent to a landscape. It grows best in moist, rich soil in full sun. This grass will tolerate heavy clay soils and heat if there is adequate moisture.

(kal-ah-mah-gros´tis ah-run-din-ay´see-ah)

86

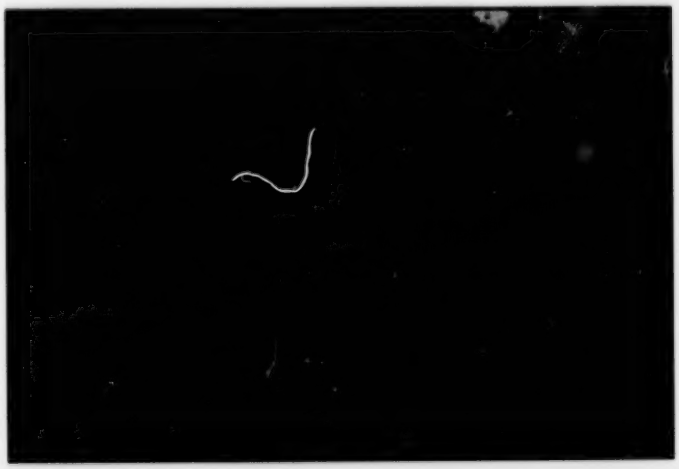


Karl Foerster feather reed grass is nearly identical to feather reed grass ('Stricta') except that it blooms two to three weeks earlier than 'Stricta'. This earlier bloom time makes 'Karl Foerster' the feather reed grass of choice for colder climates.

ZONES 5-9 COOL SEASON

(kal-ah-mah-gros´tis ah-run-din-ay´see-ah brak-ee-trik´ah)

87



Fall-blooming reed grass grows 24 to 30 inches tall. It is favored for its later bloom time and tolerance of shady sites.

ZONES 5-9 WARM SEASON

88

The showy flowers emerge pink in late summer and mature to a buff color by early fall.

Chasmanthium latifolium 46

(kas-man´thee-um lat-ee-fo´lee-um)

89

Northern sea oats is a coarse-textured grass that grows 3 to 5 feet tall. It is used in the border or in mixed ornamental grass plantings, and can be naturalized. This grass may become invasive.

ZONES 5-10 WARM SEASON

90

Northern sea oats is known for its drooping bronze panicles that persist from summer through winter and provide three-season interest.

(coy lak´ree-mah joh´bee)

91

Job's tears is an annual grass (in most areas) that grows 3 to 4 feet tall with a loosely tufted, upright habit. It should be planted in moist to wet soil in full sun.

ANNUAL

92

The unusual tear-like seeds, for which the plant is named, have had several uses in the past: for jewelry, in rosaries, and even ground for food.

Deschampsia caespitosa 48

(deh-shamp´see-ah ses-pih-toh´sah)

93

Tufted hair grass has a 20- to 36-inch mound-like habit. It mixes well with ferns and hostas in a moist semi-shade setting. Some varieties are also drought-tolerant.

ZONES 4-9 COOL SEASON

94

Tufted hair grass is prized for its delicate, airy, summer-blooming flowers. Their color ranges from white to light green to gold to almost purple at maturity.

(el´lee-mus ayr-eh-nare´ee-us glou´kus)

95

Blue lyme grass is a coarse, spreading, steel-blue grass that grows 2 to 4 feet tall. It has an irregular to narrow-upright habit. Blue lyme grass can be used in a perennial border, in a water garden, or as a ground cover. Indeed, it has been a favorite with gardeners for over a century.

ZONES 4-10 COOL SEASON

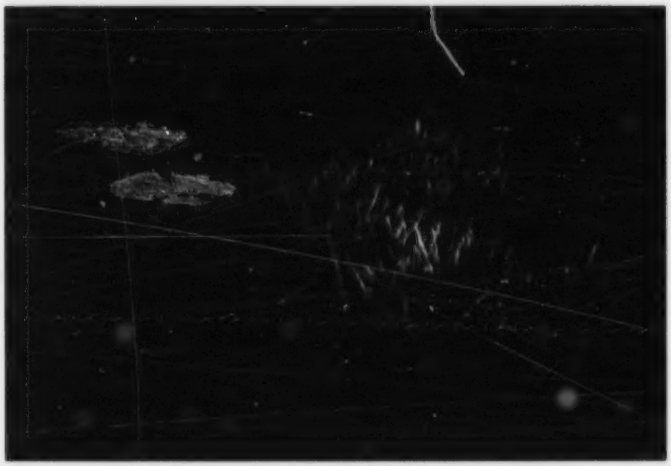
96

Blue lyme grass is tolerant of both wet and dry soils in sun or light shade. Its invasive, vigorous characteristics make it an asset when it is used for coastal stabilization and other conservation practices.

Glyceria maxima 'Variegata' 50

(glih-seer´ee-ah max´ih-mah var-ee-uh-gay´tah)

97



Variegated manna grass provides a striking foliage accent for sunny wet sites and is a vigorous spreader. This grass grows to about 3 feet in height and sometimes taller.

ZONES 5-10 COOL SEASON

98

The leaves of variegated manna grass are pinkish in the spring when young, before developing the distinctive yellow-and-white striped variegation shown here. Fall foliage is again tinged with pink.

(hel-ik-toh-tree´kon sem-per-veye´renz)

99

Blue oat grass is distinctive for its bright blue foliage spikes. The leaves grow 2 feet tall with the arching, summer-blooming flowers adding another foot or two.

ZONES 4-9 COOL SEASON

100

Blue oat grass does well in full sun or partial shade in fertile, moist, well-drained soil. In cold climates it often remains green well into the winter.

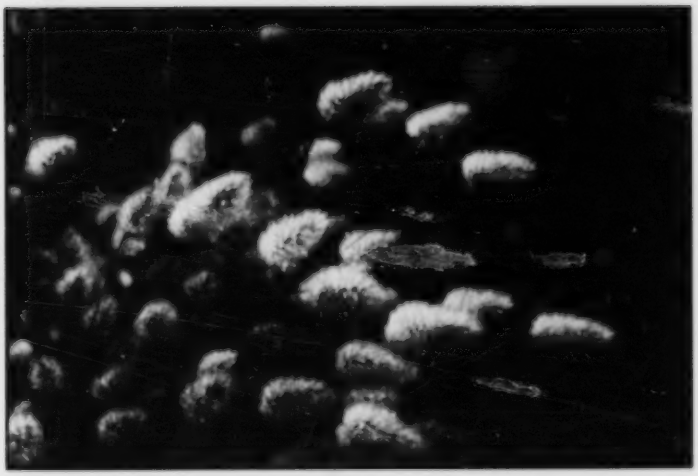
(lah-goo´rus oh-vay´tus)

101

Rabbit's tail grass, growing 2 feet tall, is most attractive when grown in massed displays. It may be direct seeded in a sunny, well-drained site. Shown here is 'Nanus', a 6-inch-tall cultivar.

ANNUAL

102



The fuzzy white panicles of rabbit's tail grass are beautiful additions to any garden setting.

(loo-zoo´lah niv´ee-ah)

103

Snowy woodrush is named for its early summer-blooming white flowers, which are borne in umbels.

ZONES 4-9

104

The downy gray-green leaves of snowy woodrush grow to 2 feet at maturity. These plants thrive in humus soil in moist, shady locations.

Molinia caerulea 'Variegata' 54

(moh-lin´ee-ah ser-oo´lee-ah)

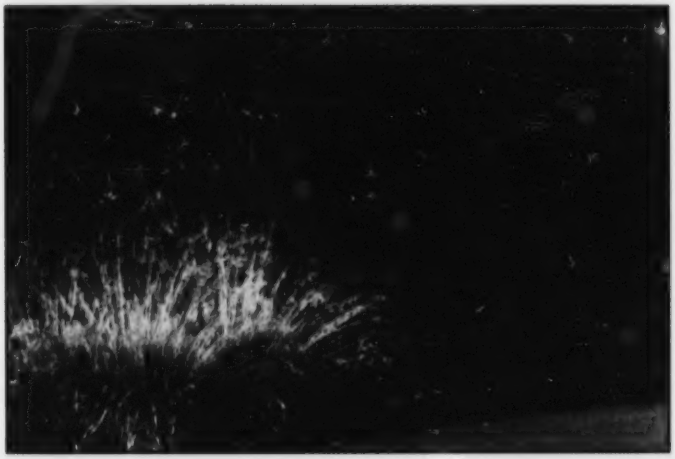
105

The genus *Molinia* contains some of the showiest ornamental grasses. Variegated moor grass has compact foliage that grows 12 to 18 inches tall. The pale purple flowers rise 6 to 12 inches above the foliage.

ZONES 5-8 WARM SEASON

106

Variegated moor grass is distinguished by leaves with creamy linear-striped variegation.



107

Variegated moor grass (on the left) should be grown in moist, fertile, acid soil in a sunny to lightly shaded site. It is very slow to become established, often taking two to three years to produce flowers.

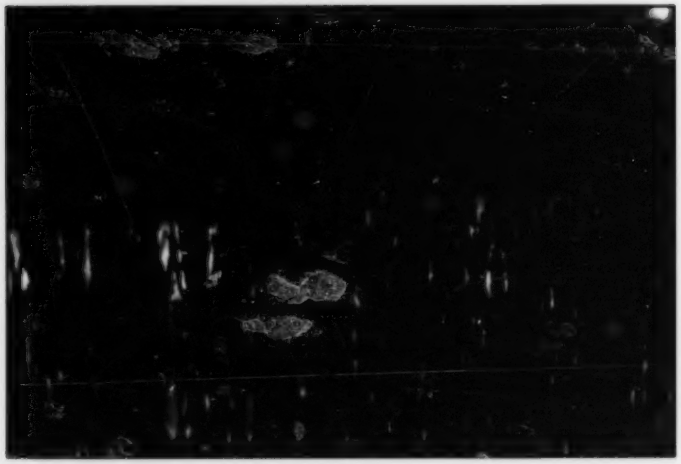
108

Heather bride moor grass ('Heidebrant'), shown here, is an erect, compact cultivar which matures at heights of 2 to 3 feet.

109

Moor witch moor grass ('Moorhexe') is a very fine-textured moor grass, also 2 to 3 feet tall, . . .

110



. . . with darker purple flowers, which develop attractive, persistent seedheads.

(pan´ih-kum veer-gay´tum)

111

Switch grass is a clump-growing grass that grows 3 to 6 feet tall. It was once very common in the U.S. in tall grass prairies. Now it is once again a popular feature in cultivated landscapes.

ZONES 5-9 WARM SEASON

112

Switch grass has proved to be a grass for all seasons with its attractive dark red to purple flowers, great fall color, and distinctive winter silhouette.

113

Switch grass is tolerant of many cultural conditions - moist or dry, sun or shade. It can be naturalized or used in the border or near water gardens for its textural effect.

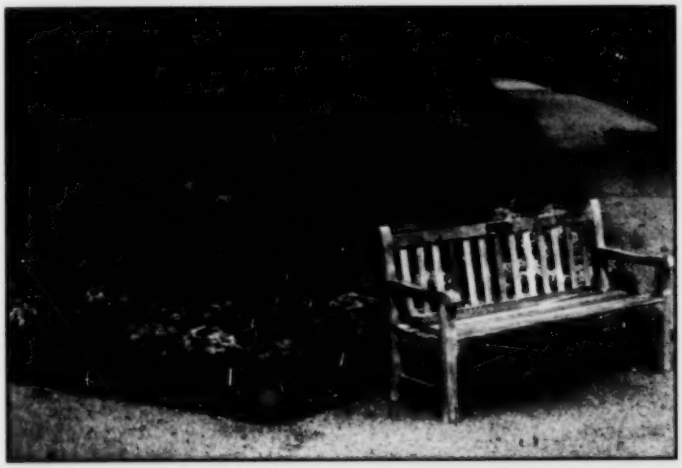
(pen-ih-see´tum al-oh-pek´yur-oy´deez)

114

Several species of fountain grass are popular for use in the landscape. This one is considered one of the best and most versatile. It grows 4 to 4.5 feet tall. The coppery to reddish arching flowers bloom from early August through October.

ZONES 5-9 WARM SEASON

115



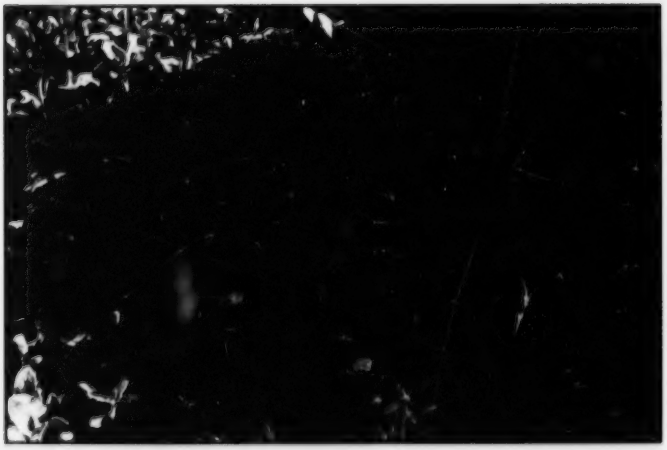
Fountain grass is best grown in full sun and moist fertile soil with shelter from the wind.

116

Dwarf fountain grass is a compact cultivar that grows 1 to 2 feet tall.

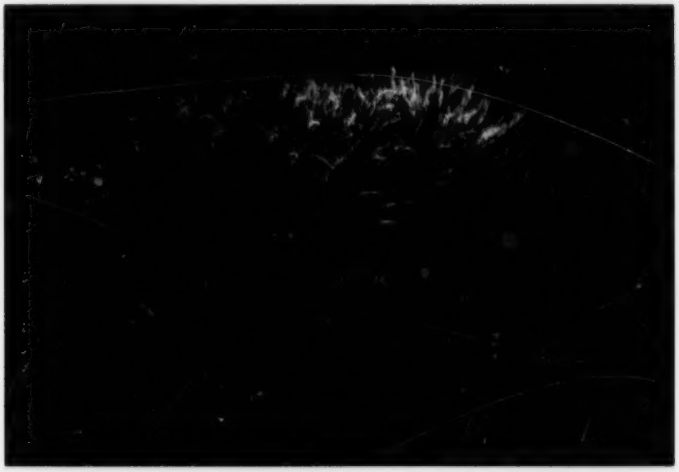
117

Its dark green foliage is finer textured than that of the species.



(pen-ih-see´tum oh-ree-en´tahl)

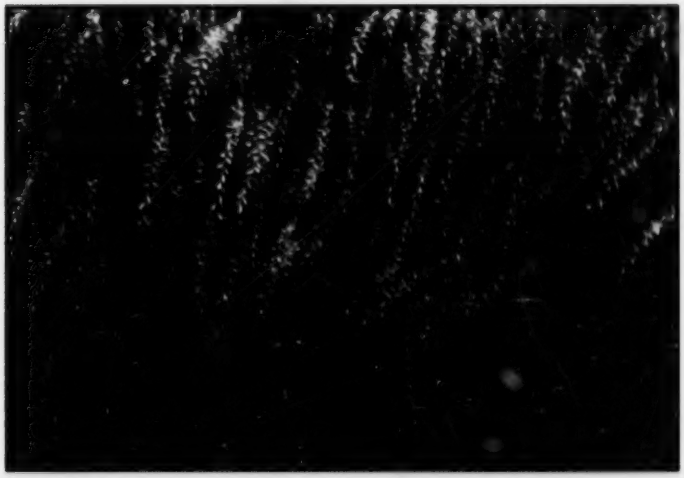
118



This *Pennisetum* grows 2 feet tall. It is an early bloomer and remains attractive until mid-October.

ZONES 7-9 WARM SEASON

119



Oriental fountain grass is recognized by its lovely, iridescent pink flowers.

Pennisetum setaceum 'Cupreum' PURPLE-LEAVED FOUNTAIN GRASS 62

(pen-ih-see´tum set-tay´see-um coo-pree´um)

120

Purple-leaved fountain grass creates a rich burgundy accent with its beautiful foliage, which grows in 3-foot arching clumps. In northern climates it functions as an annual.

ZONES 9-10

Pennisetum villosum FEATHERTOP FOUNTAIN GRASS

(pen-ih-see´tum vil-oh´sum)

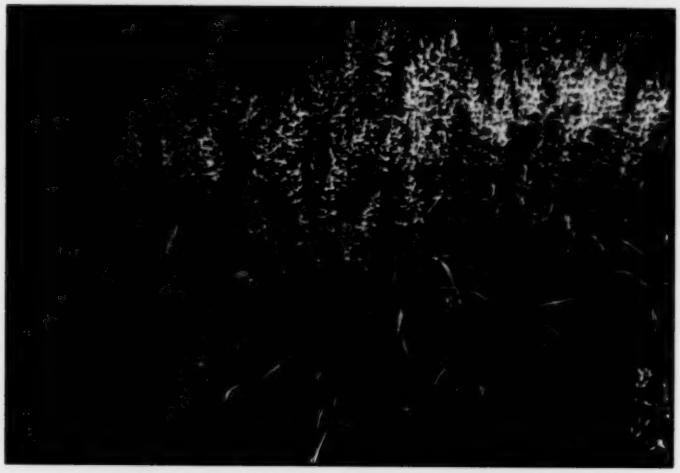
121

"Feathertop" is an appropriate name for this 1- to 2-foot-tall annual. Its feathery white flowers are present during the late summer months.

ZONES 9-10

(fah-lar´is ah-run-din-ay´see-ah pik´tah)

122



Ribbon grass grows 2 to 3 feet tall. Its white to pale pink flowers are ornamental from June through August. This grass is very useful as a ground cover or accent in the border. However, if not contained, ribbon grass becomes invasive. It tolerates wet or dry soil conditions and even salt.

ZONES 4-9 WARM SEASON

123

The white-striped leaves of ribbon grass gave it the early name "gardener's garters", now seldom used. This plant grows best in light shade in moist, fertile soil.

(spar-tee´nah pek-tin-ay´tah)

124

Variegated cord grass grows 4 to 6 feet tall with an open, arching habit.

ZONES 4-9 WARM SEASON

125

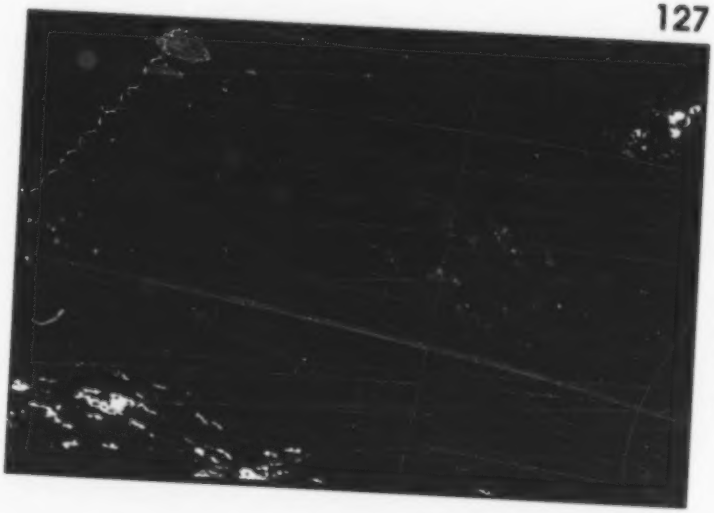
The shiny green foliage of variegated cord grass is golden-edged. This plant has light yellow flowers which bloom from August until the first frost.

126

Variegated cord grass is best grown in moist to wet soil in full sun or light shade. It is often grown effectively at the edge of a pond or water garden. This plant is rhizomatous and tends to be invasive if not contained.

(stye´pah jeye-gan´tee-ah)

127



Giant feather grass, growing 4 feet tall, creates a stunning, finely-textured display in the garden. The medium to dark green foliage is topped by 1- to 2-foot-long, loosely open, golden panicles. This plant grows best on a sunny site in fertile, well-drained soil. In colder climates this grass must be protected.

ZONES 7-9 COOL SEASON

128

The flower heads tend to be quite eye-catching in early morning or late afternoon light.

(stye´pah cap-ill-lay'tah)

129

This feather grass is similar to giant feather grass, but is smaller at 2 ½ to 4 feet. The decorative flowers bloom profusely in July and August.

ZONES 6-9 COOL SEASON

Arundo donax GIANT REED 67

(ah-run´doh doh´nax)

130

For dramatic architectural interest in the landscape, few grasses can match the effect of the giant reed. Towering 10 to 20 feet, giant reed prefers a sunny, moist site. It is tolerant of heat, drought, and alkaline conditions.

ZONES 5-10

131

Giant reed has coarsely-textured blue-green foliage. Its autumn blooms persist through the winter, providing additional seasonal interest.

'(ah-run´doh doh´nax var-ee-uh-gay´tah)

132

Arundo donax 'Variegata' is a cultivar that grows only about 6 feet tall - not as tall as the species. This striped giant reed is distinguished by its green-and-white-striped foliage. This grass can be used as a specimen or massed for stunning effect.

ZONES 6-10

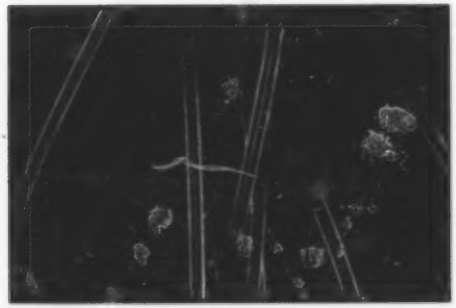
(kor-tah-deer´ee-ah sell-oh-ay´nah)

133

Stately pampas grass is called the "queen of ornamental grasses." The razor-edged, grayish-green foliage grows 8 to 12 feet tall in dense tussocks.

ZONES 8-10 WARM SEASON

135

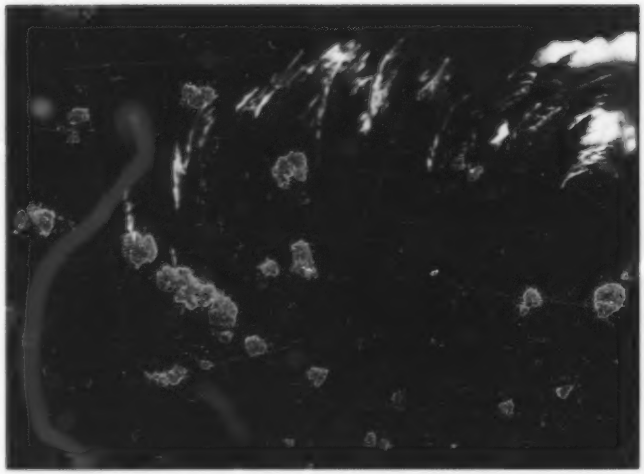


A number of cultivars are also available with their own interesting characteristics. 'Gold Band' has variegated green-gold foliage with golden edges. At 6 feet, it is more compact than the species.

134

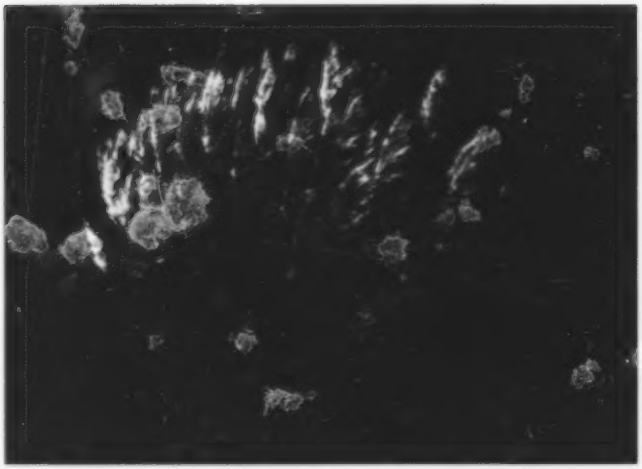
Pampas grass prefers fertile, moist, well-drained soil in full sun. However, it will tolerate some dryness. The showy, fluffy panicles rise 2 to 4 feet above the foliage, creating a dramatic effect.

136



'Sunningdale Silver' is an especially handsome flowering grass, with its robust white flowers contributing to an ultimate height of 6 to 9 feet.

137



Dwarf pampas grass (***Cortaderia selloana*** 'Pumila') grows only 4 to 6 feet tall. It bears the most flowers of all the pampas grasses: 50 to 100 blossoms at a time on a mature plant.

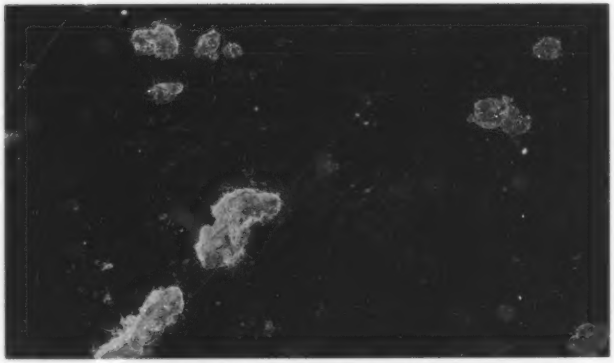
(air-ee-an´thus ra-ven´nay) (*also* **Saccharum ravennae**)

138

Ravenna grass is a stately 12- to 20-foot grass that provides lovely architectural interest for water gardens, perennial borders, and landscape screens. This plant is also called northern or hardy pampas grass for its adaptability to colder climates. Ravenna grass should be grown in full sun in moist, well-drained soil.

ZONES 5-10 WARM SEASON

139



Ravenna grass provides three-season interest, beginning with green foliage topped with silvery white to beige plumes. In the fall, the foliage changes to rich shades of brown, orange and purple. This grass sometimes lodges during late-season storms.

140

Winter interest is provided by the silhouette of plume grass. It can be particularly dramatic against a background of snow.

(mis-kan´thus)

141

Miscanthus is a genus that contains some of the most popular and ornamental of all grasses. It is a diverse group. Some cultivars are rhizomatous, some are clump-forming; various heights and colors are represented; and there are different bloom times and habits. However, all of them bear attractive silky flowers.

WARM SEASON

142

All *Miscanthus* species thrive in sun in fertile, moist, well-drained soil. All of them provide spectacular three-season interest in the landscape.

Miscanthus giganteus GIANT CHINESE SILVER GRASS 74

(mis-kan´thus jeye-gan´tee-us) (*also* **Miscanthus floridulus**)

143

Giant Chinese silver grass is the largest of the *Miscanthus* species, growing to heights of 10 to 14 feet. The medium green foliage arches out from the robust stems, giving a bold fountain effect. The reddish tan tassels that appear in late summer mature to light shimmering plumes.

ZONES 4-9 WARM SEASON

Miscanthus sinensis 'Goliath' GOLIATH JAPANESE SILVER GRASS

(mis-kan´thus sin-en´sis)

144

Goliath Japanese silver grass is a vigorous selection that grows 8 to 9 feet tall. Its extra-large panicles bloom in late summer. The fall foliage color is yellow.

ZONES 5-9

(mis-kan´thus sin-en´sis gra-sill´ih-mus)

145

Maiden grass, growing 6 to 8 feet tall, is one of the most popular and finely textured grasses in the *Miscanthus* group.

ZONES 5-9

146

The large, graceful, fluffy panicles of maiden grass are showy in October. Fall color ranges from coppery orange to almond.

(mis-kan´thus sin-en´sis gra-zee-el´ah)

147

Graceful Japanese silver grass, with its slender, delicate foliage, grows 5 to 6 feet tall.

ZONES 5-9

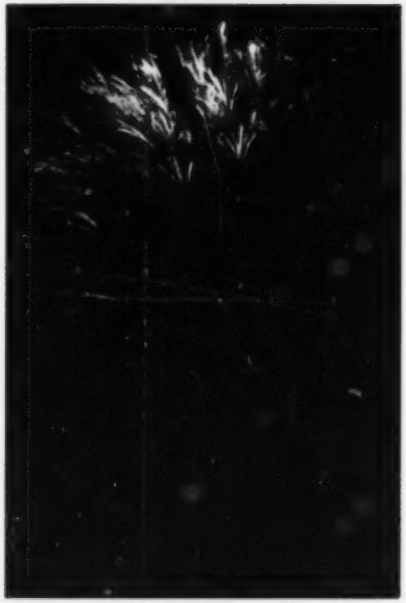
148

This Japanese silver grass selection is distinguished by showy silver-white plumes and deep burgundy fall color.

149

Another maiden grass form with pendulous silver and pink plumes is ***Miscanthus sinensis*** 'Kaskade'. This is an outstanding selection because of its long and prolific blooming period.

ZONES 5-9



150

Little fountain Japanese silver grass (***Miscanthus sinensis*** 'Kleine Fountain') is a compact, 3- to 4-foot-tall cultivar. It blooms profusely from early July through August.

151

Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light' is a silver-edged, slightly smaller form of maiden grass growing 5 to 6 feet tall. This grass provides a shimmering silver effect when viewed from a distance.

ZONES 5-9

The October-blooming flowers of 'Morning Light' emerge reddish bronze in color and mature to cream-colored.

152

(or 'Silberfeder')

153

Miscanthus sinensis 'Silver Feather' (or 'Silberfeder') grows 6 to 8 feet tall. It is a particularly handsome, vase-shaped selection. The green foliage is marked with a silver midrib.

ZONES 5-9

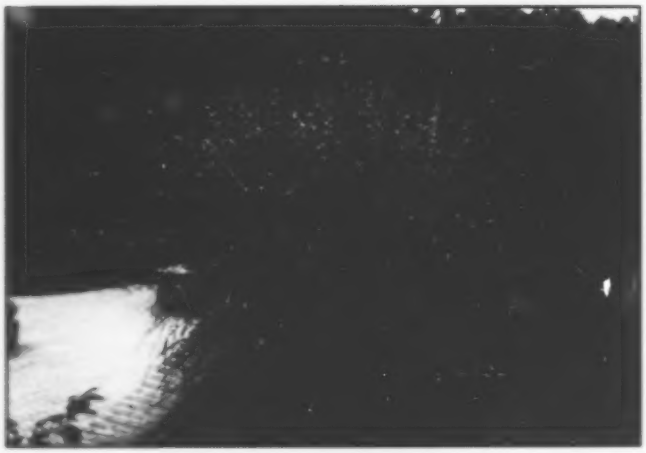
154

The large silky flowers of 'Silver Feather' emerge in late summer and provide an interesting ornamental effect well into winter.

155

'Sioux' is a shorter (3- to 4-foot) ***Miscanthus sinensis*** cultivar. Its silvery pink blooms are quite eye-catching.

ZONES 5-9



156

Porcupine grass (***Miscanthus sinensis*** 'Strictus') grows 5 to 6 feet tall in a stiff, upright habit. The pointed blades, which look like porcupine quills, give the plant its common name.

ZONES 4-9

157

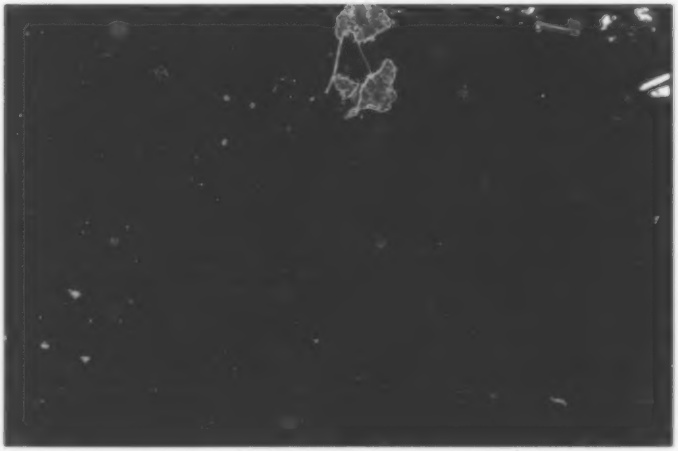
The foliage of porcupine grass is marked with bright yellow horizontal bands. This grass flourishes not only in moist soil but even in water 2 to 4 inches deep. It is hardier (Zone 4) than many other *Miscanthus* cultivars.

158

Zebra grass (***Miscanthus sinensis*** 'Zebrinus') resembles porcupine grass with its pattern of gold-banded variegation. The growth habit of zebra grass, however, is broadly arching, compared with the stiff, upright form of porcupine grass. It matures at 6 to 7 feet tall.

ZONES 5-9

159



The flowers of zebra grass bloom rosy-bronze in September. They provide great textural interest as they mature into fluffy silver panicles.

160

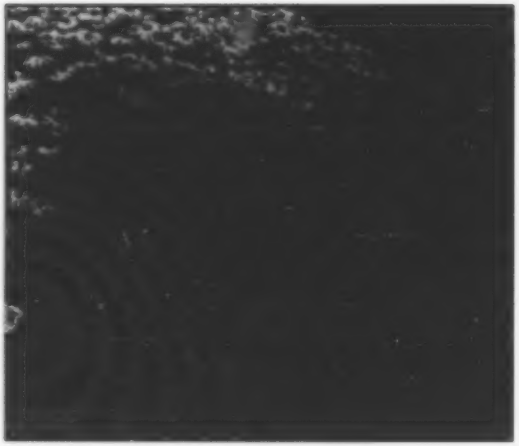
Variegated Japanese silver grass (***Miscanthus sinensis*** 'Variegatus') has markedly white-striped foliage. This variety has remained popular for almost a hundred years.

ZONES 5-9

161

The loose clumps of variegated Japanese silver grass reach 4 to 6 feet tall and often bend over. Older plants may require staking. As shown, this grass can be used in shady sites.

162



'Yaku Jima' is a dwarf selection that can be used as a specimen or in groups. The 3- to 5-foot cultivar is also the latest of the ***Miscanthus sinensis*** cultivars to bloom.

ZONES 6-9

(moh-lin´ee-ah ser-oo´lee-ah ah-run-di-nay´see-ah)

163

The tall moor grass subspecies are larger and more robust than the ***Molinia caerulea*** species, with heights typically 5 to 7 feet. The tall, graceful stalks contribute architectural form to the garden. Winter interest is provided by persistent yellow flowers and foliage.

ZONES 5-8

164

'Transparent' is a very fine-structured 5- to 6-foot selection with translucent flowers. For the best contrast, plant this cultivar in front of a dark background.

165

'Windspiel' is another fine-structured moor grass, but grows taller to 6 or 7 feet. It contributes vertical emphasis to the garden.

ZONES 5-8

(show-en-plek´tus ta´beer-nay-mon-tan´ah) (*also* **Scirpus tabernaemontana**)

166

Zebra bulrush, with its 2- to 4-foot stalks, is an outstanding ornamental for use in a water garden or pond.

ZONES 9-10

167

Zebra bulrush (foreground) can be grown in rich soil and in full sun. It produces a brown seed head in early summer.

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Carex morrowii 'Variegata'	55
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(continued)

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Reed grass, feather	*Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Stricta'	5, 16, 38, 84-85
Reed grass, Karl Foerster feather	*Calamagrostis arundinacea* 'Karl Foerster'	86
Ribbon grass	*Phalaris arundinacea* 'Picta'	10, 122-123
Sea oats, northern	*Chasmanthium latifolium*	89-90
Sedges	*Carex* species	3, 32, 48-58
Sedge, black	*Carex nigra*	58
Sedge, Bowles Golden	*Carex elata* 'Bowles Golden'	3
Sedge, common yellow	*Carex elata* 'Aurea'	32
Sedge, Evergold Japanese	*Carex morrowii* 'Evergold'	54
Sedge, Gray's	*Carex grayi*	51-52
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